BATMAN LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT

188

APR 2005

McCARTHY
CASTILLO
RAMOS

RiDDLE mE ThaT Part 4 of 5

DIRECT SALES

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dccomics.com

"THE SCROLL OF MINOS?"
A PRICELESS, ANCIENT ARTIFACT KNOWN THE GLOBE OVER AND ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN RIDDLES IN THE WORLD.
A REAL NO-BRAINER THEN.
JUDGING BY THE ENTRY POINT YOU GAVE ME, THE RIDDLER WILL BE ABLE TO BYPASS A LARGE CHUNK OF THE MUSEUM'S SECURITY.
AND THEN SOME. EXHIBITORS DON'T TAKE CHANCES IN GOTHAM ANYMORE, FOR EXACTLY THIS REASON.
ALTHOUGH NOT THE WORST OF IT.
WHO IS THAT, WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
HIGH LEVEL SECURITY?
I'M UPLOADING THE SCHEMATICS INTO YOUR COMPUTER RIGHT NOW.
GOOD WORK, ORACLE.
I TRY.
ALTHOUGH, TO BE HONEST, IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH THIS TIME...
THE RIDDLER'S SUCCEEDED WHERE I FAILED; HE'S OBVIOUSLY FOUND A WAY TO BYPASS THE SYSTEMS AND SHUT THEM DOWN. IT'S THE ONLY WAY HE'LL GET IN.
IF HE GETS IN AHEAD OF YOU AND REINITIALIZES THEM...
IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THOSE SYSTEMS ARE STATE OF THE ART. SOME OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THERE ISN'T A MAN ALIVE THAT CAN GET THR--
OH, NEVER MIND...

Riddle Me That

PART FOUR

SHANE MCCARTHY writer | TOMMY CASTILLO penciller | RODNEY RAMOS inker
TONY AVINA-colorist PAT BROSSEAU-letterer
MICHAEL WAIGHT-associate ed. BOB SCHRECK-editor
Batman created by Bob Kane

THEN.
TAK TAK TAK TAK
WHY, PROFESSOR, WHATEVER IS THE MATTER?

YOU LOOK A LITTLE... FLUSHED.
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? I WARNED YOU, I LAID OUT THE RULES.
NO PEEKING.
Y.. YOU'RE... YOU'RE HIM...THE... THE RI...
THE R...R... R...RIDDLER? NO, NOT ANYMORE. THANKS TO YOU, I'M NO LONGER "THE RIDDLER"... I'M...
...THE RIDDLER!

TSK, TSK, LITTLE FRIGHTENED, ARE WE? SCARED? YOU SHOULD BE.
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT? THAT I WOULDN'T KNOW?
IF YOU REALLY THOUGHT I WAS SO SMART, HOW IN HEAVEN'S NAME DID YOU THINK YOU'D SLIP ALL THIS PAST ME, EH? NOT THINKING, WERE YOU, BUTTERY.
ALL THOSE ADVANCEMENTS, ALL THOSE LITTLE SOLUTIONS YOU WERE PRESENTING YOUR OLD FRIENDS AT THE N.S.A. CODE BREAKERS EXTRAORDINAIRE!
YOU WERE BECOMING QUITE POPULAR AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU? BACK FROM THE DEAD, AS IT WERE.
I WONDER WHAT THEIR REACTION WOULD BE IF THEY KNEW IT WASN'T YOU...THAT YOU WERE CHEATING.
N...NOW JUST A MINUTE, EDWARD...I--
CHEATING! USING ME AS YOUR LITTLE GUINEA PIG...USING ME TO CHEAT!
AND YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT CHEATING, DON'T YOU, PROFESSOR?

P..PLEASE. TAKE IT. THE MONEY. ALL OF IT...PLEASE...TAKE IT ALL. IT'S YOURS...
TAKE IT? WHERE'S THE THRILL IN THAT? "TAKING" IS FOR PETTY THIEVES AND HALF-WITS.
JUST LIKE YOU, I CAN PUT MY MIND TO GOOD USE AND AMASS MY RICHES, DARE I SAY, LEGALLY.
WINNING IS WHAT I DO, PROFESSOR. VICTORY THROUGH CONQUEST.
I'VE TAKEN ALL I NEED FROM YOU, OLD MAN.
NO... PLEASE...
EDWARD, DON'T! WE'RE FRIENDS. YOU WERE LIKE A SON!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
EDWARD... I HELPED YOU!
HELPED ME?! TO DO WHAT? HELP YOU CHEAT!
WHACK

YOU USED ME!
USED ME TO CHEAT!
YOU CHEATED!
USED ME TO CHEAT!
EDWARD, DON'T DO THIS.
LET IT GO, LET GO OF THE PAST PLEASE, EMBRACE YOUR TRUE DESTINY, THE ONE YOU WERE BORN FOR.
DON'T YOU SEE, PROFESSOR? I INTEND TO...
...STARTING THIS INSTANT.

NOW.
SO...HE'S ALREADY GONE IN THEN?

THESE ARE THE SECURITY MEASURES ORACLE MENTIONED. SET THESE OFF AND WE'LL BE TRAPPED, LEAVING *HIM* TO ESCAPE.
WELL, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. THERE'S NOTHING THERE. LOOK. HE TURNED THEM O--
THEY'RE THERE. REINITIALIZED, AS WE'D FEARED.
YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.

THEN
FATHER...?

DAD ?

HELLO? YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD IN AGES! THE RIDDLER COULD BE LONG GONE BY N--
HOLD THIS
WOW, IT'S HEAVY.
THE SEQUENCE REPEATS EVERY THIRTY SECONDS. STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE.

ARE YOU O.K.? WHAT HAPPENED?
REDFEET
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK HURT.
STAY AS CLOSE TO ME AS YOU CAN WITHOUT SETTING ANYTHING OFF. DON'T FORGET THE RIDDLER'S BOMB.
O.K.
ORACLE'S SCHEMATICS SHOW FLOOR AND CEILING PRESSURE PLATES JUST AHEAD.
SHE'S RIGHT.
SHE'S ALWAYS RIGHT.
DON'T MOVE

THUNK

UNGH

BEDLAM
YOU ARE HURT, AREN'T YOU?
WE NEED TO HURRY. THE RIDDLER WILL BE RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR.
IS THIS ENJOYABLE FOR YOU? IGNORING ME LIKE THIS?
IF I'M SHORT WITH YOU IT'S BECAUSE THIS SITUATION IS SERIOUS AND IS ABOUT TO GET EVEN MORE SO
THE RIDDLER WILL BE WAITING FOR US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR AND I'LL GUARANTEE YOU HE WON'T BE ALONE.
HE'LL ATTEMPT TO KILL ME OR HAVE ME KILLED AND WILL, MORE THAN LIKELY, INCLUDE YOU IN THE EQUATION.
AT TIMES I'M GOING TO BE MOVING VERY QUICKLY AND WITHOUT HESITATION. I HAVE NO TIME FOR MISTAKES.
STAY CLOSE TO ME BUT DON'T GET IN THE WAY. REMEMBER THE BOMB
YOUR ACTIONS IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNING THIS OR LOSING OUR LIVES
ARE WE CLEAR?
VERY
THEN GET READY

THEN
MARTY?! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE, MAN?
USUAL
"USUAL"? YOU'RE NOT LOOKIN' FOR WORK, ARE YOU?
OH, MARTY, COME ON. YOU SAID YOU WERE GONE FROM HERE YOU WERE GOIN' BACK TO YOUR OLD MAN.

DIDN'T WORK OUT
I NEED A JOB, JUST THIS ONCE, SOMETHIN' I GOTTA DO
YOU GOTTA DO THIS FOR ME, MAN, YOU CAN GET ME IN ON ANYTHIN'.
AH, MARTY
THERE'S WORK, BUT IT'S COSTUME, BIG LEAGUE
SOUNDS LIKE WHAT I'M LOOKIN' FOR
BACK TABLE, FIVE GUYS, YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS

MARTY...
...YOU'LL NEED THIS.
SO...
...WHAT'S THE SCORE.

2 MONTHS UNTIL GREEN LANTERN... 2 MONTHS UNTIL BATMAN: JEKYLL AND HYDE... 1 MONTH UNTIL DC COUNTDOWN

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

02.05

IN DEMAND

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Keyword: DC COMICS on AOL

This Month's Cover by...

SEAN PHILLIPS

"A story three years in the making."
— VP-Executive Editor DAN DIDIO

Next Month in...

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #189

It's the Dark Knight versus the new, improved Riddler in the gun-blazing conclusion of "Riddle Me That!"

DC COUNTDOWN (March 2005): Today's hottest comics creators – writers **Geoff Johns**, **Greg Rucka**, and **Judd Winick**, plus artists **Rags Morales**, **Ed Benes**, **Ivan Reis**, **Phil Jimenez**, and **Jesus Saiz** – band together for an incredible 80-page spectacular that reveals a mystery brewing since the end of IDENTITY CRISIS! With a cover penciled by **Jim Lee** and painted by **Alex Ross**, DC COUNTDOWN is the perfect jumping-on point for readers, and all for the unbelievable low price of *one dollar*! Set your watches, starting *now*!

The Hot List THIS WEEK

ACTION COMICS #824

It's Superman versus Preus, with the fate of the world hanging in the balance! Plus, find out what Doomsday has been up to as he hunts for the Man of Steel!

BATMAN: THE MAN WHO LAUGHS

Acclaimed writer Ed Brubaker joins forces with fan-favorite artist Doug Mahnke for a Prestige Format Special that tells the tale of the Dark Knight's first battle against his eventual archnemesis: The Joker!

BREACH #2

The intriguing new series continues as Breach struggles to adjust to his transformation. But his awakening has not gone unnoticed and, on the plains of Africa, someone — or something — is coming for him!

"ROGUE WAR" DECLARED ON THE FLASH

After catching up with the FLASH creative team of **Geoff Johns**, **Howard Porter**, and **Livesay** recently, we expect the Fastest Man Alive to run himself ragged next month, in the first part of a six-part Rogue epic. The new Captain Boomerang (introduced in IDENTITY CRISIS), Captain Cold, and the Trickster are just a few of the Rogues choosing sides and waging war against each other in FLASH #220, and their conflict will doubtlessly have a profound effect on the Fastest Man Alive and his loved ones…especially when a third party decides to *zoom* in with a major strike of his own!

NIGHTWING GETS CONNECTED

After crafting an unbelievably rough year for NIGHTWING, **Devin Grayson** is making an offer neither our hero nor the new art team of **Phil Hester** and **Ande Parks** (GREEN ARROW) can refuse. Starting with issue #107, Dick Grayson finds himself working deep within the New York underworld, for some extremely not-so-goodfellas! And as the day-to-day hassles of dealing with lowlifes and contract hit men start to pile up, so does the list of super-villains and heroes looking to take him down! Needless to say, expect a mob in comics shops this April!

MORALES, BAIR HEAT UP WONDER WOMAN

Following IDENTITY CRISIS, one could understand why the white-hot art tandem of **Rags Morales** and **Michael Bair** might have wanted to plan some vacation time. However, their travel brochures are pointed in only one direction – onto WONDER WOMAN and straight into Hell! Starting as the series' new regular art team with issue #215, Rags and Michael join Wonder Scribe **Greg Rucka** – who has already blinded our poor Lady Di and put her into battle against the JLA – in sending the Amazing Amazon and the Teen Titans' Wonder Girl to the Land of the Dead! And if we're lucky, they may even locate the whereabouts of another character from Diana's past!

NEW MEMBERS OF THE SUPERMAN FAMILY

Our super-hearing's catching all the buzz regarding creative changes for the Super-books this May. We're especially excited that BIRDS OF PREY writer **Gail Simone** will join Super-star penciller **John Byrne** on his return to the pages of ACTION COMICS, while **Greg Rucka** and THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN enjoy a MAJESTIC influence with new series artist **Karl Kerschl**! And sure, **Brian Azzarello** and **Jim Lee** are a tough act to follow on SUPERMAN, but guys like **Mark Verheiden**, the former supervising producer who handled young Clark Kent's adventures on the megahit WB! Series *Smallville*, and **Ed Benes**, whose art soared in BIRDS OF PREY, are ready for the challenge. We're also hearing about bigger and badder threats to appear, as well as a major crossover in July that will have Super-fans everywhere up in arms! Don't say we didn't warn ya!

– your MOLE at 1700

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KTCHAK
PSSSH
WHERE IS HE?! WH...I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
THE SCROLL HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED.
WE'VE BEEN HAD! QUICKLY, WE--
WELL, WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY?
THANK YOU FOR DOING ALL THE HARD WORK, OLD BOY.

NOW, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND AS TO STAND ASIDE...I THINK I'LL TAKE WHAT'S MINE.
To Be Continued...